



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Reijo K. Salminen) ArtUnit: 1731
Serial No. 10/084,289) Examiner: T. Nguyen
Filed: February 25, 2002)
For: CONTINUOUS DIGESTER) Attorney
Ref. No.: P114070)

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BOX RESPONSE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

Certificate of Mailing (37 CFR 1.8a)

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10/15/2002
Date Chris Minter
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RESPONSE

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed this last June 12, 2002. response was due this last September 12, 2002. A one-month extension of time is hereby requested to make the present response due on October 15, 2002 (October 12 being a Saturday, and October 14 being a holiday). A check in the amount of \$55.00 is enclosed in payment of the extension fee. It is believed that no other fee is due at this time to maintain the application in full force and effect. However, if any such fee is due, please charge this to Deposit Account No. 08-3260.


REMARKS

In the last Office Action, there was a requirement to select either the set of claims 1-19, drawn to a continuous digester system, or to claim 20, which is the method of digesting wood chips. The Applicant provisionally elects claim 20, drawn to the method.

Restriction requirement is hereby traversed. It is believed that the subject matter of the method and apparatus claims are sufficiently close so that the overall prosecution would be expedited by examining both sets of claims.

Signed at Bellingham, County of Whatcom, State of Washington this
October 10, 2002.

Respectfully submitted,
REIJO K. SALMINEN,

By 
Robert B. Hughes, Reg. No. 19,304
Hughes Law Firm, PLLC
2801 Meridian Street, Suite 201
Bellingham, WA 98225
(360) 647-1296
Fax (360) 671-2489